

Andrew Jackson to Robert Hays, December 6, 1796, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

1 Copy. Jackson's service in the House of Representatives extended from Dec. 5, 1796, to Mar. 3, 1797.

Philadelphia, December 6, 1796.

Dear Hays: This day a full House in both branches of the Legislature was made, and we proceeded to business, a Message being sent to the President to notify him thereof. He returned an answer that he would meet both Houses to-morrow on the floor of the Representatives to return his address. So much for Legislative new; now for politicks.

The minds of the people are much agitated on the subject of the election of President. The spirit of party runs high, and I am of the opinion that much Depends upon the Choice. If Adams is appointed a war with France may be Dreaded, as it is Evident that British principles go hand in hand with that side. The functions of the Minister of the Republic of France, M Adet, is suspended, and [he] will do no more business with our Executive, until the Convention of France are assured of the friendship of the Executive toward her by acts of friendship Consistent with the Existing Treaty. And he has further made known that the Convention of France have Decreed that they will treat neutral flags in the same manner that neutrals suffer their flags to be treated by Great Britain. *This is a hint* . I have not time to write fully as I did not know of the present opportunity of conveyance until 9 o'clock at night, and he sets out with the stage.

I beg of you to amuse Mrs. Jackson. Let her not fret if possible.

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Tell my friends I have not had time to write them, but they shall hear from me as soon as I have materials and time. Tell Overton and Tatum that D Allison 2 promises fair, but sunshine is wanting.

2 See vol. I., pp. 9, 13–17, 21–22.

Governor Blount 3 got in last evening. We were admitted to our seats without Question or Ceremony.

3 William Blount served as senator from Tennessee from Dec. 5, 1796, till expelled July 8, 1797.

Give my Compliments to all my Nashville friends without Distinction, and those in the Country, and make such parts of this letter as you may judge of a publick nature as Publick as possible.

A little of the "ready" (If my land is sold by Mr. Deaderick) 4 will be agreeable. I expect none from D. A.'s note.

4 See vol. I., 56.

I will thank you to see Mrs. Jackson as often as you can with Convenience. I am Distressed in mind about her. Write me every opportunity. I am your sincere friend and mo. ob. serv.